

LESSON 16

WHY KUFFAR DID NOT BELIEVE IN RASULULLAH (S)

Rasulullah's call to Islam was accepted by some Makkans who became his *Sahabah* and served the cause of Allah. Their faith in Islam and dedication to Rasulullah (S) made them undergo severe hardships, but they never gave up Islam. The *Kuffar* on the other hand remained confirmed in their false beliefs and continued to work against the cause of Islam. In the next two chapters we shall analyse the reasons for the attitude of both these groups.

First, let us look at the *Kuffar*!

❖ Rasulullah (S) was well known in Makkah for his righteousness. He was known as *al-Sadiq* and *al-Amin*. He was supported by the miracle of Quran. Everyone recognized that the Quran was not written by a human being. The teachings of Islam were noble and pure. Still the *Kuffar* opposed Rasulullah (S).

The Quran says that only those people who want to discover the truth can find it. Allah gives His guidance to those who fear Him and seek guidance from Him (*al-Baqarah* 2:1-5). But Allah hardens the hearts of those who reject the truth and oppose it, and makes them "deaf, dumb and blind" (*al-Baqarah* 2:7) to truth. Thus, in Makkah, some people searched for the truth and found it. Most Makkans opposed it and became its worst enemy, and Allah confirmed them in their *Kufr* because of their obstinacy.

There are some other reasons also that we may discuss here. It is true that Rasulullah's teachings were good for all mankind. But the *Kuffar* feared that it would bring an end to their ~~economic well being~~, their free way of life and their superior social status. It was not easy for them to give up the way of life of their ancestors. It guaranteed them benefits and pleasures in this world instead of promises of paradise.

In the Quran we read their answer, "When it is said to them Come to that which Allah has revealed and to the messenger,' they reply, 'Enough for us is this way of life on which we found our ancestors.' (*al-Ma'idah* 5:104). Thus it is always difficult for most people to change when it affects their personal benefits.

Rasulullah(S) taught that Allah is One. The *Kuffar* had many gods and goddesses. Their fathers and grandfathers had worshipped these gods for generations. The *Kuffar* were very attached to them. It was not easy to give up their beliefs in idols, even though some of the *Kuffar* knew that the idols, in fact, had no power.

The *Kuffar* drew economic benefits from their religious beliefs which they feared they might lose by becoming Muslims. Makkah was the center of Arab religion. Quraish were in charge of Kabah. Kabah had three hundred and sixty-five idols. People came from all over Arabia to worship these idols in Kabah. The Makkans made a lot of money through these pilgrims. "If Muhammad succeeds," they thought, "that would be the end of our money-making religion." The love of wealth and the greed for money prevents many people from following the truth. And this was a serious factor in the Makkans' refusal to accept Islam.

Islam also challenged their free way of life and invited them to a responsible and righteous life. The Quraish were smart businessmen. To make money by all methods, fair or foul, was their way of life. Thus, cheating in business was very common. They feared that Islamic principles of honesty in business dealings would destroy their wealth.

The leaders of the Quraish were also very greedy. Islam's call for social justice, charity, and human equality was not appreciated by the pleasure seeking Quraish. If one of their relatives died, and they were to take care of his children or wives, they would steal his wealth. They treated his family as they wished. We have already seen how harsh they were even to their old parents. They had no respect for women. It was a matter of shame to have daughters, so many Arabs killed their daughters to save themselves from embarrassment. There was a lot of slave trading in those days, and slaves were treated like animals; they had no respect and no rights.

Believing themselves superior to all other people, the Quraish thought they could behave as they wished. So they went around gambling, drinking, killing, cheating and exploiting other people for their own benefit.

The *Kuffar* never wanted to be responsible to Allah and change their way of life. In the Makkan period the central message of Islam was Tawhid, Oneness of Allah, and Akhirah, the Day of Judgement. Both these points went against the religious and social view of Quraish. By denying Akhirah they denied their moral responsibility in this life.

For many *Kuffar* it was more difficult to believe in the person of Muhammad (S). He (S) was an orphan and a poor person. They believed Allah should have chosen His prophet from among the rich and powerful chiefs of Makkah or Taif. The Quran speaks about the objection of the *Kuffar*. "If only this Quran was revealed to some great man of the two towns." (*al-Zukhruf* 43:31). They didn't understand that prophethood is Allah's choice, and Islam does not recognize anyone's birthrights or status because of his color, race, social origin, or wealth.

Some of them had strange ideas about prophethood. They thought a prophet should not be a human being, or that he should descend from heaven with a host of angels. The prophet, they thought, should perform miracles instead of teaching good things. They were familiar with some of the stories of the miracles of the prophets in the past. Therefore, many *Kuffar* demanded,

And the *Kuffar* say:

We shall not believe in you till you
cause a spring to come forth out of earth,
or until you haul a garden of palm and wine,
and you cause in the middle of it a river to come out,
or until you cause the heavens to fall
upon us as pieces as you have told us,
or you produce God and angels ascending
or until you have a house decorated with
gold, or you ascend into heaven.
Nor we shall believe in your ascent
unless you bring down to us a writing
which we may read.

al-Isra' 17:90-93

The Quran replied to all these demands in the most simple way,

Say (O Muhammad to the *Kuffar*), Glorified
be my Lord, I am but a human messenger.

al-Isra' 17:93

Allah did not send Rasulullah (S) as a wonder worker but as a moral teacher. Though Rasulullah (S) performed many miracles, the emphasis of the Quran is on his teachings. In replying to such absurd claims Allah asks Rasulullah (S) to tell the *Kuffar*,

Say! For myself I have no power to benefit, nor power to hurt save that what Allah wills. Had I the knowledge of the unseen I would have gathered for myself abundant wealth, and adversity would not touch me. I am but a warner and a bearer of good tidings to the people who believe.

al-A'raf 7:188

The Quran thus explained that the real power in all affairs belongs to Allah and the prophets have only those powers which Allah desires them to have. The miracles of the prophets are a gift from Allah to support them and convince the people. However, miracles were never sufficient proof for the non-believers. They demand miracles, but when they are produced, they called them magical tricks and turned away.

The *Kuffar* did not realize that the aim of all the prophets was to teach Allah's commandments. The prophets show us how we can be pious and good through their actions and not through miracles, or family connections, or wealth.

Islam wanted to bring to an end their beliefs, their idol worship, their pride, their deceit, and their evil ways, but the *Kuffar* were not ready to change. These are some of the reasons why the *Kuffar* opposed Islam and became the enemies of Rasulullah (S).

Many among the Quraish and the Arabs who had accepted Islam were corrupt like their other Arab brothers. But once they became Muslims they were completely changed. Now they knew that Allah is One and they are responsible to Him. They recited the Quran and learned the wisdom they never knew before. They loved Rasulullah (S). They saw in him the best example of a pious, God-fearing, upright, truthful, and honest person. They tried to follow him in their everyday lives.

In spite of all the cruelties of the *Kuffar*, Muslims would not give up their religion, Islam, or their love for Rasulullah (S). Instead, they were prepared to give up their homes, property, relatives, and city. When the Prophet (S) asked them to migrate to Yathrib, they willingly gave up their homes and left for Yathrib.

Points of review:

1. Islam challenged the *Kuffars'* religious beliefs, social status, and free way of life and invited them to a responsible and righteous living.
2. The Arabs who accepted Islam were completely changed in their personal life and social outlook.
3. While the *Kuffar* opposed Rasulullah(S) the faith of the Muslims became more firm.

Words to remember:

Exploit, obstinacy.

Quranic Study

1. In this chapter we have quoted many verses. Look up all these verses in the Quran. Read their meaning with *Tafsir*. Write in your own language about the objections of the *Kuffar* and Allah's defence of His prophet.
2. In this connection you may once again like to read the verses which speak about the *Kuffars'* beliefs and ways of life. See Quranic Study, Lesson I, *Jahiliyyah*.

